

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Original) A towing pintle assembly comprising:

a first jaw member for attachment in use to a towing vehicle;

a second jaw member movably mounted on said first member for movement between a closed position, in which said first and second jaw members co-operate for retaining in use a towing eye of a towed vehicle and an open position in which in use a towing eye may be withdrawn from or introduced between said jaw members;

a locking member pivotally mounted on said second jaw member and arranged such that, when said second jaw member is in its closed position, said locking member may be moved between a locked position in which a locking surface on said locking member faces a relatively fixed abutment surface, such that movement of said second jaw member towards its open position is prevented by said locking surface abutting said abutment surface, and a release position in which said second member may be pivoted to the open position, and

fluid-operated means for urging said locking member from said locking position to said release position, to allow said second jaw member to be moved to its open position.

Claim 2. (Original) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said first jaw member is relatively fixed and includes means for attachment, in use, to the towed vehicle.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~, wherein said second jaw member is of hooked form and directed downwardly thereby in use to pass through a towing eye to carry a major part of the drag load from the towed vehicle.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said second jaw member is pivotally mounted on said first jaw member, and said locking member is pivotally mounted on said second jaw member, by respective generally parallel and horizontal respective pivots.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said locking means is manually moveable between said locked and released positions.

Claim 6. (Original) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 5, wherein said releasable retention means comprises a locking pin.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said fluid-operated means comprise at least one fluid-operated ram.

Claim 8. (Original) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 7, wherein said fluid-operated means comprises two fluid-operated rams in spaced parallel relationship and adapted to co-operate with spaced regions on said locking member, the fluid-operated rams being connected to a common fluid passage.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 2 ~~or any claim dependent thereon~~, wherein, in use, said first jaw member is mounted on said attachment means for movement about a rotary axis.

Claim 10. (Original) A towing pintle assembly according to Claim 9, including rotary lock means for locking said first jaw member against rotational movement.